

What is claimed is:

1. A method of maintaining a building structure free of fungi comprising the steps of:
creating a flow of air from an enclosed space within the structure to a location outside of the structure; and
treating the flow of air in a germicidal fashion.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the treating step comprises:
creating a fungi killing zone in the lower enclosed space; and
passing the flow of air through the killing zone.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the killing zone comprises a zone in which the flow of air is subjected to radiant energy.
4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the radiant energy comprises ultraviolet radiation.
5. For use with a building structure situated on a ground surface and having an upper enclosed space and a lower enclosed space beneath the upper enclosed space and proximate or beneath the ground surface, a method of maintaining the building free of fungi comprising the steps of:
creating a flow of air from the lower enclosed space to a location outside of the building; and
treating the flow of air in a germicidal fashion.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the treating step comprises:
creating a fungi killing zone in the lower enclosed space; and
passing the flow of air through the killing zone.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the killing zone comprises a zone in which the flow of air is subjected to radiant energy.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the radiant energy comprises ultraviolet radiation.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein:
the lower enclosed space comprises a finished basement area of the building including paneling spaced from a foundation wall of the basement to define a dead air space between the foundation wall and the paneling;
the fungi killing zone is created in the dead air space; and
the flow of air is created from the dead air space to the outside of the building.

10. For use with a structure having a first enclosed space intended for human occupancy and a second enclosed space proximate the first space, a method of maintaining the structure free of fungi comprising the steps of:
creating a flow of air from the second enclosed space to a location outside of the structure;
creating a zone of radiant energy in the second enclosed space; and
passing the flow of air through the radiant energy zone.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein the radiant energy is in the form of wave energy.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the radiant energy is in the form of ultraviolet waves.

13. A method according to claim 10 wherein the method includes the further steps of providing a means for detecting the presence of a human in the

second enclosed space and extinguishing the radiant energy in response to a sensed human presence.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the method includes the further step of providing the first enclosed space with relatively conditioned air.

15. An apparatus for abating fungi in a structure having boundary walls defining a first enclosed space intended for human occupancy and a second enclosed space proximate the first enclosed space, the apparatus comprising:

a blower unit having an air inlet and an air exhaust and adapted to be positioned in the structure with the air inlet communicating with the second enclosed space and the air exhaust communicating with the exterior of the structure, actuation of the blower unit being operative to draw air from the second enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit and thereafter discharge the air through the air exhaust to the exterior of the structure; and

a source of radiant energy adapted to be positioned in the second enclosed space in a position to establish a fungi killing zone to intercept air moving from the second enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit.

16. A structure according to claim 15 wherein the source of radiant energy comprises an ultraviolet lamp.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the apparatus further includes an exhaust conduit having an inlet end connected to the exhaust of the blower unit and an outlet end adapted to be positioned at a location outside of the structure.

18. An apparatus for abating fungi in a building supported on a ground surface and having an upper enclosed space and a lower enclosed space

beneath the upper enclosed space and proximate or beneath the ground surface, the apparatus comprising;

a blower unit having an air inlet and an air exhaust;

at least one exhaust conduit having an inlet end connected to the exhaust of the blower unit and an outlet end adapted to be positioned at a location outside of the building structure, actuation of the blower unit being operative to draw air from the lower enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit and thereafter through the exhaust conduit to the exterior of the building structure; and

a source of radiant energy adapted to be positioned in the lower enclosed space in a position to establish a fungi killing zone to intercept air moving from the lower enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein:

the lower enclosed space comprises a finished basement area of the building including paneling spaced from a foundation wall of the basement to define a dead air space between the foundation wall and the paneling;

the fungi killing zone is established in the dead air space; and

the intercepted air comprises air moving from the dead air space into the inlet of the blower unit.

20. An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the apparatus

further includes an intake conduit having a horizontal run connected to the blower unit air inlet and a vertical run extending downwardly from the horizontal run to position the inlet end of the intake conduit proximate the floor surface of the lower enclosed space.

21. An apparatus according to claim 20 wherein a plurality of

spaced intake conduits are provided each having a horizontal run connected to the blower unit air inlet and a vertical run defining an air inlet end positioned proximate the floor surface of the lower enclosed space.

22. An apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the source of radiant energy comprises a plurality of radiant energy sources adapted to be positioned in spaced relation in the lower enclosed space and operative to intercept the air moving into the intake ends of each of the intake conduits.

23. An apparatus according to the claim 22 wherein each source of radiant energy comprises a source of ultraviolet radiation.

24. An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein each source of ultraviolet radiation comprises an ultraviolet lamp.

25. An apparatus according to claim 24 wherein the apparatus further includes means for sensing the humidity in the lower enclosed space and operative to actuate the blower unit and the ultraviolet lamps in response to variations in the sensed humidity.

26. An apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the apparatus further includes means for detecting the presence of a human in the lower enclosed space and operative in response to such detection to turn off the lamps.

27. An apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the means for detecting the presence of a human comprises a motion detector.

28. A structure comprising:
boundary walls defining a first enclosed air space intended for human occupancy and a second enclosed air space proximate the first air space;
a blower unit positioned in the structure and having an air inlet communicating with the second enclosed space and an air exhaust communicating with the exterior of the structure, actuation of the blower being operative to draw air

from the second enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit and thereafter discharge the air through the air exhaust to the exterior of the building structure; and
a source of radiant energy positioned in the second enclosed space in a position to establish a fungi killing zone to intercept air moving from the second enclosed air space into the inlet end of the blower unit.

29. A structure according to claim 28 wherein the building structure further includes:

an intake conduit having an inlet end opening in the enclosed space and an outlet end connected to the blower unit, whereby the air moving from the enclosed space into the blower unit moves through the intake conduit; and

an exhaust conduit having an inlet end connected to the blower unit air exhaust and an outlet end communicating with the exterior of the building structure where by the air leaving the blower air exhaust moves through the exhaust conduit to the exterior of the building structure.

30. A structure according to claim 28 wherein the source of radiant energy comprises an ultraviolet lamp.

31. A structure according to claim 28 wherein the structure further includes means for providing conditioned air to the first enclosed space.

32. A building structure including:

boundary walls defining an upper enclosed space including a floor and a lower enclosed space defined beneath the floor and including a lower boundary surface;

a blower unit positioned beneath the floor and having an air inlet and an air exhaust;

at least one exhaust conduit having an inlet end connected to the air exhaust of the blower unit and an outlet end communicating with the exterior of the

building, actuation of the blower unit being operative to draw air from the lower enclosed space into the air inlet of the blower unit and thereafter through the exhaust conduit to the exterior of the building structure; and

a source of radiant energy positioned in the lower enclosed space in a position to establish a fungi killing zone to intercept air moving from the lower enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit.

33. A building structure according to claim 32 wherein:

the lower enclosed space comprises a finished basement of the building structure including paneling spaced from a foundation wall of the basement to define a dead air space between the foundation wall and the paneling;

the fungi killing zone is established in the dead air space; and

the intercepted air comprises air moving from the dead air space into the air inlet of the blower unit.

34. A building according to claim 33 wherein the building further includes an intake conduit having an outlet end connected to the blower unit air inlet and an inlet end positioned proximate the lower boundary surface of the lower enclosed space.

35. A building according to claim 33 wherein the blower unit is positioned proximate the floor of the upper enclosed space.

36. A building according to claim 35 wherein there are a plurality of intake conduits each defining an inlet end opening in the lower enclosed space at spaced locations within the lower enclosed space.

37. A building according to claim 36 wherein there are a plurality of sources of radiant energy positioned proximate the floor in spaced relation within the lower enclosed space and operative, cumulatively, to intercept substantially all of

the air moving from the lower enclosed space into the inlet ends of the intake conduits.

38. A building according to claim 37 wherein each source of radiant energy comprises a source of ultraviolet energy.

39. A building according to claim 38 wherein each source of ultraviolet energy comprises an ultraviolet lamp.